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parents must be told that they have no business to have families of fourteen, or ten or eight.

Certain adverse criticisms are called for. The author's shaky conception of the nature of capital is notable. He defines capital as "that portion of wealth and of credit, or command of wealth, used to obtain more command of wealth," thus adopting a private acquisitive conception which is inconsistent with his social philosophy. At the same time, he himself later distinguishes two kinds of capital: (1) capital yielding technically "unearned" income (land, houses, and scrip); and (2) capital fixed in productive undertakings. This distinction is clear evidence that the author has found the distinction made by most economists between "land" and capital to be an important one; and that his own definition of capital does not match with his social point of view. The author's individualistic-acquisitive interpretation of production is also inconsistent with his main body of thought. Other adverse criticisms are his questionable tax policy; his inadequate appreciation of the unused land problem (page 140); and his imperfect study of the history of tariff policy.

The strong features of the book are its statement of Malthusian theory and the principles of neo-Malthusianism; its strong defense of the Ricardian thought; and its convincing criticisms of the single tax theory.

LEWIS H. HANEY.

*The Theory of Environment.* By ARMIN HAJMAN KOLLER. (Menasha, Wis.: George Banta Publishing Company. 1918. \$1.)

It is primarily with the scientific implications concerning environment that Dr. Koller deals, yet throughout there is most fruitful suggestion bearing upon the whole range of those social and legal proposals which are now a part of all "reconstruction" views. Writers divide with every degree of emphasis on individualistic or collectivist lines. There is perhaps no more fundamental contention in the socialist approach than that of man's power to mould the milieu after his will. On the other side climate, geography, the whole *Umwelt* (to describe which the Germans have forty different words), are held to show how light in the balance is the fussy pretention of the reformer. The dispute is as old as human thought, and people will doubtless quarrel over it as long as diversities of temperament continue in the race. Attempts to secure social and labor legislation are troubled by the

same antagonisms. One insists that the external changes proposed by the bill in hand will be useless because they cannot affect character. Another is confident that character has no chance until the outward changes have taken place.

One learns among these social questions that nothing is so practical as a theory. One of our most conscientious "single taxers" refuses to help in tenement house reform, "because better homes for workingmen are useless under our present vicious tax system. Replace this chaos by the single tax and the evil of overcrowding and bad tenements passes away forever." The theory of Mr. George, strictly construed, makes this attitude consistent and unanswerable.

With far more intelligent qualifications, the "statesman-scholar" John Morley states the case.

In particular, I have long felt that the prevailing tendency to regard all the marked distinctions of human character as innate, and in the main indelible, and to ignore the irresistible proofs that by far the greater part of those differences, whether between individuals, races, or sexes, are such as not only might but naturally would be produced by differences in circumstances, is one of the chief hindrances to the rational treatment of great social questions and one of the greatest stumbling blocks to human development.

It is upon a reasoned and balanced view like this that social legislation and reform must justify itself.

What Dr. Koller does for us in this introductory study is to analyze with skill and singular detachment the opinions of a great variety of writers on this question. It is part first of what promises to be a most enlightening contribution. He says in his preface:

Setting about to inform myself on the history of the theory, I determined to obtain for myself, if possible, a tolerably complete idea, at least in its essentials, of the theory of milieu, to see where the theory led to, where it started from, what changes it has undergone, and what were its ramifications.

We are given first a history of the milieu down to the nineteenth century with a careful noting of the still more recent discussions. Then follow chapters on: Anthro-geography; Geography and history; More recent anthro-geographical treatises; Primitive peoples and environment; Society and physical milieu; Government, war, progress, and climate; Climate and man's characteristics; Man's intellect and physical environment; Religion and physical milieu; Climate and conduct; and Climactic control of food and drink.

"He fixed thee 'mid this dance  
Of plastic circumstance"

are Browning lines for an opening text. How "plastic" is circumstances and how "fixed" are we in the dance? We shall await with real interest the completion of this work.

JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS.

NEW BOOKS

ADAMS, H. C. *Description of industry. An introduction to economics.* (New York: Holt. 1918. Pp. x, 270. \$1.25.)

The growing introduction of economics into the curricula of high, vocational, and other secondary schools necessitates suitable textbooks. College and university professors have found it difficult, when importuned by their former students who were called upon to teach the subject to younger pupils, to name a suitable book. To those of the high school age certain subjects may be taught quite fully while others become too difficult if carried beyond an elementary treatment. Reality, concreteness, freshness are most desirable; and it is unfortunately true that many who are compelled to teach the subject have had only very inadequate training themselves. Too many books prepared for this field have been mere abridgments of large treatises and the process of condensation has squeezed out what little juiciness the original may have had so that it has become the driest of emergency rations which the teacher has not the wherewithal to freshen and make appetizing. It is still a moot question what topics should be taught in secondary schools, in what proportions and by what methods. If some economist, skilled and experienced in teaching, openminded and adjustable, would devote a few years to high school teaching of economics, his deductions and conclusions should be valuable to democratic citizenship, for it is desirable that the great numbers of citizens who vote upon economic policies should have at least an elementary knowledge of economic experience and principle. Professor Adams' little volume seems to the reviewer by far the best attempt yet made to meet the needs of secondary schools. There is little use of technical terms; the order of treatment varies from the customary in a pleasing way; the style is in the main fresh and interesting; and there is more attention paid to the legal framework of industrial society than is customary. "The essential and enduring principles of the science are fully recognized." Until more successful inductive methods have been developed, didactic teaching of economics must prevail and this volume is a most promising attempt to supply the need.

HERBERT E. MILLS.

AYRES, CLARENCE EDWIN. *The nature of the relationship between ethics and economics.* (Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press. 1918. Pp. 58.)

The central idea of this book is contained in the statement that "the problem of economics is to contribute its study of industrial society to the solution of the problem of living." The individualistic